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Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, story ideas, and nominations for "Signaleer in the Spotlight" to

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On the Cover

Cpt. Noel Bartley channels international globetrotter, Carmen Sandiego in a variation of the classic logo.

Cover design by Billy Cheney.



Chief of Signal Regimental Team

We are pleased to share with you another edition of the Army Communicator. On June 21, the Signal Corps celebrated its 159th birthday. Here at Fort Gordon, Ga., the home of the Signal Corps, we held our Signal Corps Anniversary Ball and the Distinguished Members of the Regiment Ceremony.

Here is the link to the US Army Signal Corps Facebook page. Go like us and watch the video we shared at the Signal Corps Ball. It displays some of the great work our Soldiers across the globe are doing!

This is the best time to be a part of the Signal Regiment. With changes being made to creating multi-disciplined Signal Soldiers through Signal Enlisted MOS Convergence and Signal Foundational Training in AIT we are staying ahead of the Army's transition toward multi-domain operations in large scale ground combat operation environments. As we propel the Regiment forward, it is im-

portant we acknowledge those who have gotten us this far. We recently had the honor of inducting five new members into the Distinguished Members of the Regiment Program. Together the five new members have nearly 160 years of service!

The Signal Corps is the best branch of the Army. With this career, you can work in any formation within the Army. There is not a single organization that does not have a Signal Soldier or civilian included. The Signal Corps also provides opportunities, such as the Military Personnel Exchange Program where select Signal Officers can participate in an exchange program in places like Germany, the United Kingdom, or Australia. Regardless of where you want to go, the Army Signal Corps can take you there.

Enjoy this month's issue, and if you want to submit an article or would like the editorial staff to assist you in writing one, or if you have any outstanding photos that captures Signal Regiment in action please contact us. Be passionate about what you do!



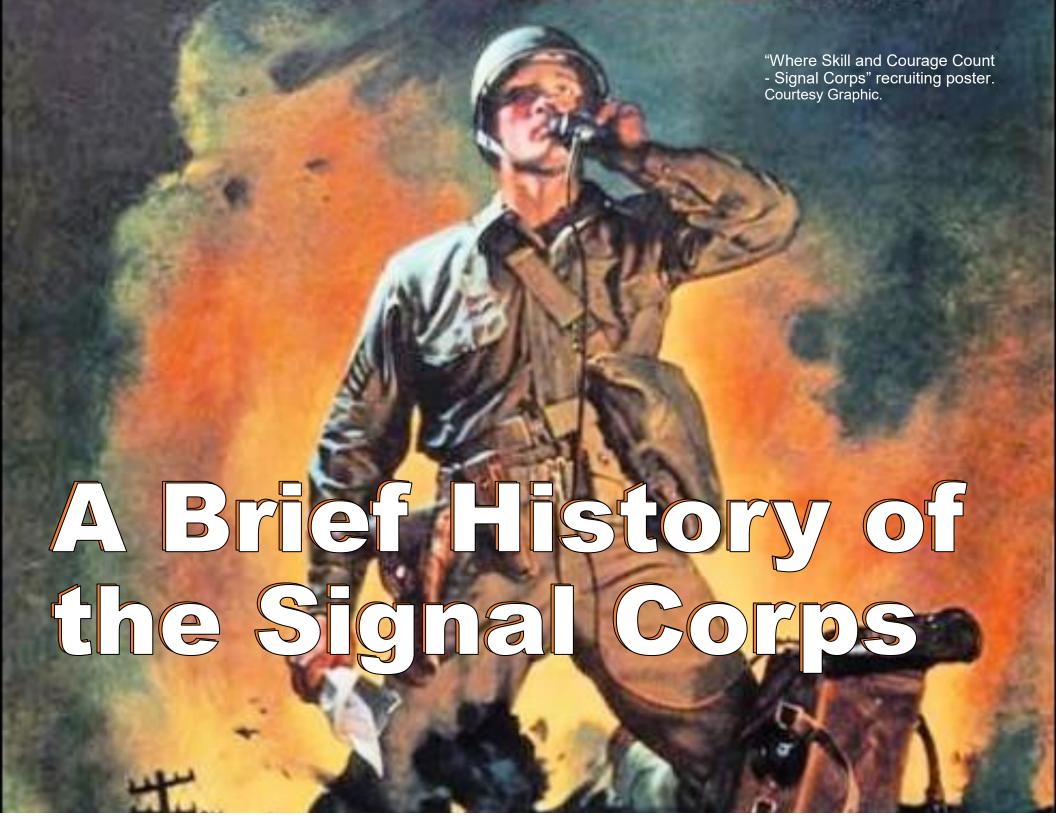
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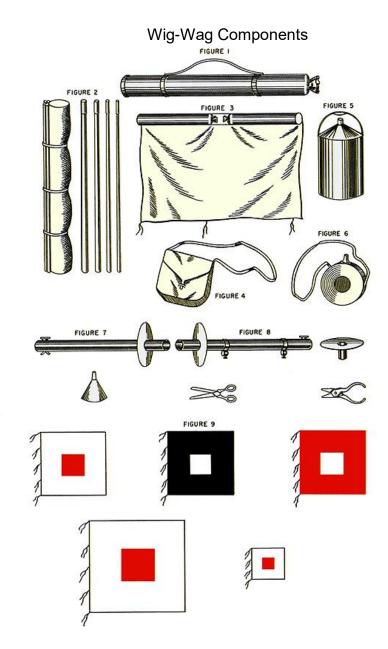
The US Army Signal Corps was established by Congress on 21 June 1860. The branch is unique because it began as the vision of an individual. Albert James Myer, a former Army surgeon, who developed a unique and practical tactical visual communications system for the Army called "wigwag." Simple, mobile, and lightweight, the wigwag system used flags during the day and torches at night to communicate at distances beyond sound, but within line of sight depending upon terrain and weather conditions. Congress authorized the position of Signal officer and appointed Myer to that position in time to deal with the emergency preparations for the Civil War. Throughout the Civil War, the first Signal soldiers provided visual communications on the

battlefield thereby enhancing military command and control.

After the Civil War the Signal Corps assumed responsibility for the nation's weather service by using existing telegraph lines and building others, to establish a nationwide weather reporting network.

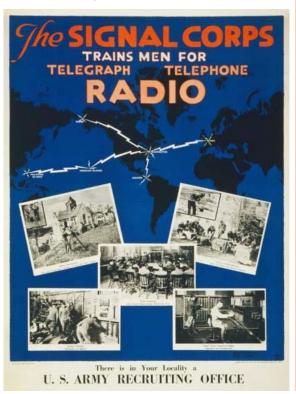
The Signal Corps also began using telephone technology soon after its commercial introduction in 1877 and incorporated it into its wire network. In 1898 the Signal Corps found itself facing global challenges of time and space during the war with Spain. Signal soldiers established land and undersea communications networks in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines and connected those distant shores with the United States which enabled transmission of messages between Cuba and Washington in as little as twenty minutes.

The Signal Corps pioneered US military aviation in 1908, when the Wright brothers made



tests flights of the Army's first aircraft. US military aviation capability remained a Signal Corps responsibility until 1918 when a separate Air Service was created.

World War I proved to be a significant milestone in Signal Corps' history when the branch grew to approximately 55,000 soldiers. In France the Signal Corps installed a wire network that ultimately extended some



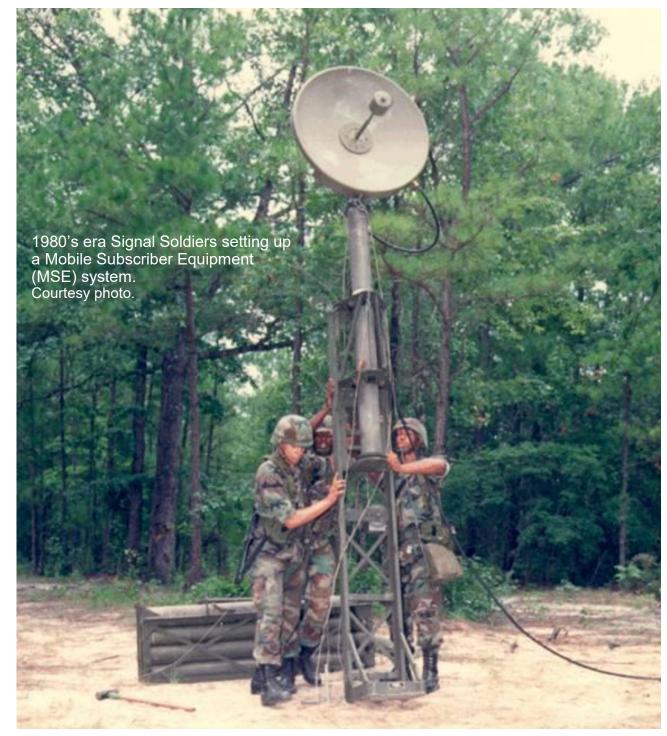
38,000 miles. Because radios were still cumbersome, field telephony carried the backbone of wartime tactical communications. During the interwar years the Signal Corps devoted its efforts to developing critical capabilities such as radar and FM radio which greatly enhanced tactical command and control and fostered the development of combined arms using a standard communications platform that was reliable, mobile, and easy-to use.

After the 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor, the Signal Corps underwent an enormous expansion to meet the demands of a global conflict. One of its most daunting tasks was the establishment of a worldwide military communications system which connected Washington with all major field commands at home and overseas. On the battlefield, the walkie-talkie and the handie-talkie put radios in soldiers' hands.

After WWII, the Signal Corps was a pioneer in the satellite and space age. Project Diana in 1946 reflected Signal Corps' scientists' efforts to expand the capability for communications and paving the way for space and satellite communications. In December 1958, SCORE I, the world's first communications satellite, carried a Signal Corps-developed communications relay package into space.

During the Vietnam War transistorized combat radios, such as the PRC-25, enabled infantry, armor, and artillery to communicate directly with each other. It was also during this period that the US Army Signal School from Ft. Monmouth, NJ was merged with the Southeastern Signal School at Ft. Gordon, GA. On 1 October 1974, the US Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon became the single training center for all communications personnel. In June 1986, the Signal Corps became part of the US Army Regimental System and the commander of the US Army Signal Center and School added the title, Chief of Signal and the leader of the Signal Regiment.

By the time the United States battled Iraq during Operation Desert Shield/ Storm, computers and satellites greatly enhanced the ability of commanders to coordinate their forces. As the Army continues to transform while conducting operations in support of the Global War on Terror, the US Army Signal Corps is meeting those challenges to provide communications capabilities that Army soldiers need from the foxhole to the Pentagon. The vision of one man over 150 years ago resonates today as the Signal Regiment is one of the Army's largest branches and its military value is undeniable. Wherever they are being worn around the world, the crossed flags and torches of the Signal Corps' insignia are visible reminders of the branch's rich heritage as it carries military communications through the 21st century.





Devon L. Suits Army News Service

The Army is developing a new device to simplify secure radio communications with allied partners.

Known as the Radio Interoperability Capability-Universal, or RIC-U, the new device serves as an analog-to-digital voice bridge between allies and U.S. troops.

All Soldiers need to do is incorporate the RIC-U into their voice communications network, said Robert DiCarlo, an engineer with the Combat Capabilities Development Command C5ISR Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Once the RIC-U is connected, Soldiers will then select the radio they are using and the radio they are trying to communicate with through the device's computerized user interface. After the device is set up, Sol-

diers can start transmitting and receiving voice communications.

"It will take the burden of having to pull Soldiers off the battlefield and stick them on the radio [as liaison officers]," DiCarlo said.

By incorporating the RIC-U into voice networks, allied partners can use their native radio communications equipment, unique encryption, and frequency-hopping techniques to speak with U.S. military personnel.

Further, the RIC-U makes the network more secure, as the Army and its allies can now talk encrypted on both sides of the voice communication network, said Rex Johnson, a system engineer with the Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate.

The Army incorporated feedback from the recent Radio Interoperability Capability-Korea, or RIC-K, program while developing the RIC-U, DiCarlo added.

In
2017, the
Army
sought to
build a
universal
radio device that
could connect U.S.
and Korean radios,
meeting a
National
Security
Agency



requirement, DiCarlo said.

This led to the creation of the RIC-K, which enables direct radio communications and secure voice traffic between 8th Army and South Korean forces without an intermediary.

Regionalized commands around the globe have expressed an interest in the RIC-U device, DiCarlo added. The Army plans to submit a request for proposal to vendors in August, and narrow them down by September.

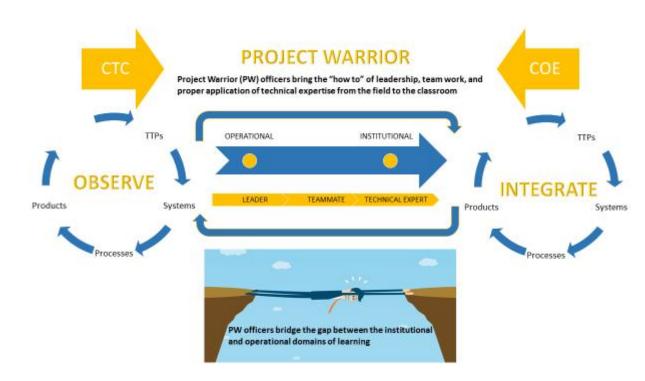
"We are trying to get to the point where the RIC-U is in production by the end of the year," Johnson said.





Cpt. William VanArtsdalen Signal Captains Career Course

How does the S6 lead a section successfully, integrate and contribute to the combined arms team, and leverage technical expertise for the benefit of the organization and the Commander? This question defines the problem statement that the Signal Regiment has encountered with junior Signal officers across our formation. In response, the Project Warrior (PW) program provides a course of action the Regiment can depend on to provide a high level of confidence to officers who are leaving the Signal Captain Career Course (SCCC) headed for demanding S6 positions. The program has brought the "how to" of leadership, teamwork, and technical expertise to the schoolhouse. It has filled the gap between opera-



tional execution and institutional learning at SCCC.

PW officers compete in a series of rigorous assignments to make it through three cohorts. In Cohort One, highly successful lieutenants are identified and earmarked by HRC. Only those who continue on an upward trajectory in KD assignments are selected for Cohort Two. Those officers will then continue to compete while serving as Observer Coach Trainers (OCTs) at one of the three Combat Training Centers (CTCs). Through continued commitment to excellence in performance, Cohort Three officers must be endorsed by the Commander, Operations Group (COG) to reach the position of Small Group Leader (SGL). Most importantly this program builds the branch by infusing these officers into the institutional domain, where they are molding and shaping the Regiments future officers. Maximizing effectiveness of education is vital due to the short time the schoolhouse has to impact junior Signal leaders in the institutional

domain. PW instructors ensure maximum effectiveness of junior officer education and assist the Signal branch in creating quality S6s across the branch. By learning from senior Captains who have been forged through crucible training events at the CTCs, junior Signal officers leave the institutional domain possessing a high level of confidence in their trade and are prepared for the most demanding of S6 assignments across the Army.

The schoolhouse has in the past taught what Signal leaders do but not necessarily proper methods of how it should be done. PW program officers are on the front lines identifying gaps in junior officer operational understanding and drive the change needed in the operational and institutional domain through a unique purview that only the PW program provides. PW officers

are the best equipped to implement the specific leadership imperatives, strategies for teamwork, and best way to transform technical information into operational impact.

"I was very prepared for my current position due to my development as a Project Warrior officer," Maj. Kyle Barrett a former PW SCCC SGL and current Brigade Signal officer, said. "As a Maneuver BN OCT at JMRC, I gained a thorough understanding of the Signal systems and the Mission Command Warfighting Function, at Brigade and below, during Offense, Defense, and Stability Operations."

The PW program has already had a tremendous impact on the schoolhouse by driving the change that is required for producing quality junior officers. PW officers are applying real world experiences to curriculum at the Signal Captains Career Course (SCCC). PW officers, provide a level of influence on the path the branch will take



that is second to none. This program has also opened up a conduit for which PW OCTs at the CTCs can continue to impact the training junior Signal officers within the institutional domain receive and changes to schoolhouse curriculum are nearly immediate. Addition-

ally, SGLs who rise to the field grade level are taking their experiences and thriving in all types of organizations and bring a unique experience every combatant commander needs. The impact PW has and will continue to have on our branch and the Army is limitless. As the branch continues to build its image amongst the rest of the force, no doubt the PW program will be at the forefront of this effort. This program continues to require passionate Signal officers who truly care about the health of the branch and our ability to support the combined arms community to fight and win our nations wars.



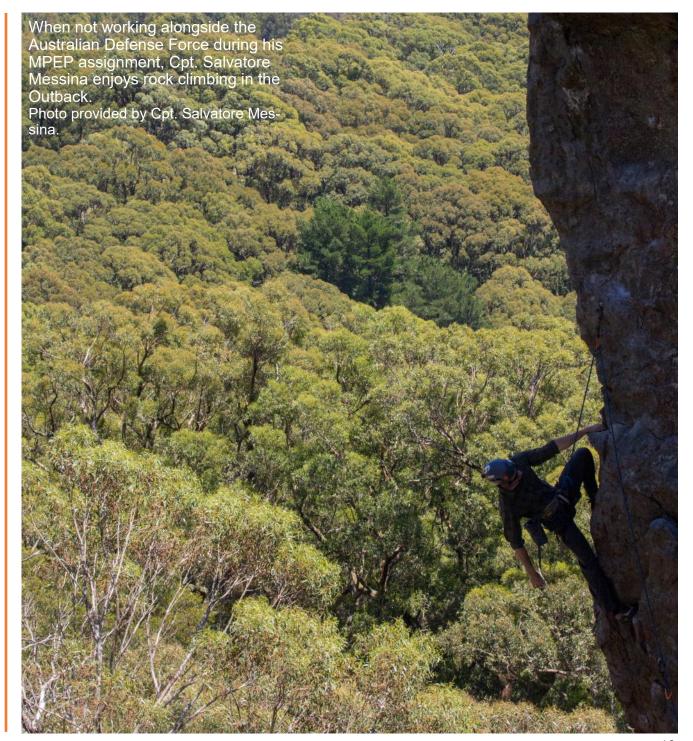
Where can the Signal Corps take you?

Cpt. Salvatore Messina contemplates an endless sky on a beach in northwestern Australia. He had the opportunity by participating in the Signal Regiment's Military Personnel Exchange Program. Photo provided by Cpt. Salvatore Messina.

James Bussler Force Integration Specialist

The Army's Military Personnel Exchange Program (MPEP) allows Soldiers who qualify to serve as embedded Officers in foreign nation Army forces. They can be stationed in one of three locations – the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, or Australia – working along-side their foreign counterparts and immersing themselves in the cultures.

"Life as an MPEP is truly an irreplaceable opportunity where you are immersed into another nation's military and function as one of their own," Maj. Eric Holbrooks, MPEP Germany, said. "You gain greater insight into their culture, customs, and way-of-life. One of the greatest benefits of being an MPEP is the ability to learn and grow from an experience derived from a path typically not traveled



by a green suiter."

MPEP primarily enhances the Army's ability to perform coalition operations with global partners, who are critical enablers for Army expeditionary forces. As such, officers selected for MPEP support the Department of Defense (DoD), Army, and regional combatant commanders' strategic goals. For example, an embedded officer could be assigned a position working on training operations, and helping to develop best practices for alobal forces.

"The Australian Defense Force has recently adopted the Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE), and having a US Exchange Officer stationed at the school who has [participated in several similar training scenarios] over the years has been instrumental in the school's efforts to incorporate DATE

into its training events, and teach its staff about the new environment and the threats therein, Cpt. Salvatore Messina, MPEP Australia, explained.

"Recruiting, training, and leading the OPFOR guerrilla force for the FTX has also been a rewarding and enjoyable additional duty."

As an added bonus, Messina says the program provided him with the opportunity to brainstorm with the best and brightest Signal Officers from his host nation.



"I have interacted with senior leaders from across the Australian Defense Force and the command teams from every single Australian Signal unit. Additionally, over the course of two years instructing every lieutenant that joins the Signal Corps, I have undoubtedly already met at least one future Head of Corps, which is the Australian Chief of Signal equivalent," he said.

The majority of officers assigned to MPEP say they enjoy the unique challenges the program offers, many of which are surprising.

"These assignments are all unique and require those assigned to make rapid adjustments to a multitude of things including cultural differences, family integration, language, military traditions, weather, food and driving conditions, to name a few," Maj. Craig Anderson, MPEP UK. said. "In addition to the day to day work environment, the UK Army culture is deep rooted in tradition and provides multiple opportunities for formal and informal social experiences. The expectation is that exchange officers participate in a multitude of activities outside of the workplace that include sporting events, pub nights, ceremonies, and multiple balls. Supporting these events may require a few new wardrobe additions, anywhere from a black tuxedo or formal gown to themed outfits at informal ball events."

According to another MPEP UK participant, Maj. Craig Starn, those social events are especially important when serving as the lone American presence in a foreign force.

"Being the only US officer comes with the expectation that you participate in a variety of events including dinner nights, ceremonies, sporting events, international gatherings and a multitude of balls, and as an exchange officer your responsibilities include everything from representing the President to getting the next round of



drinks," he said. "This aspect of the job often creates a venue to interact with senior leaders from both sides and provides exposure for the program and its benefits."

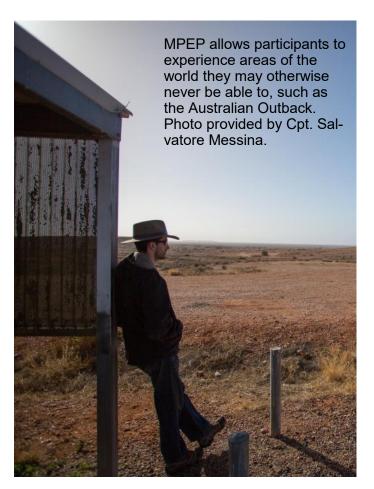
But for MPEP officers, opportunities extend beyond work and social interaction. Being assigned with a foreign unit provides an opportunity to explore and discover new areas in cultures in a personal way.

"Traveling around Australia is an incredibly rewarding experience, and being stationed there for two years offers plenty of opportunities," Messina said. "Australia has some of the most scenic and isolated environments in the world. Camping is a national pastime and Victoria is home to arguably the best rock climbing in the world."

All MPEP positions are nominative and Human Resources Command

(HRC) is responsible for selecting, nominating, and assigning U.S. Army personnel for exchange duty. Current opportunities for Signal Officers exist with Australia, Germany, and United Kingdom (UK). Officers selected for Australia and the UK will serve two year assignments and the officer selected for Germany will serve a three-year assignment.

Signal Officers selected for participation in MPEP must have a minimum of a Secret Clearance and must have demonstrated capabilities for future higher command and staff positions and who are particularly well qualified through schooling and assignment experi-



ence for the exchange position he or she will fill. In addition to performing primary career field duties, exchange officers support United States national security goals by promoting mutual understanding and trust between the United States Army and foreign forces, and must also be capable of serving with tact and diplomacy and be highly motivated for such duty. Interested personnel can reference Army Regulation 614-14 for a more detailed description of the MPEP and should contact his or her appropriate assignment officer for application processes.



1st Lt. Lyra Kwak 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

The 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) routinely deploys Signal teams in support of Army and Joint missions across the Indo-Pacific Theater. From its central location on Oahu, the ESB provides communications assets to locations such as Guam, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, and many others. As the sole ESB responsible for supporting units in the Pacific, the 307th executes a high operational tempo to support various communications commitments throughout its Area of Operations (AOR). One of these enduring missions includes a forward deployed rotation in Japan.

In 2017, the 307th ESB established a partnership with the 78th Strategic Signal Battalion (SSB) to address tactical Signal service requirements in US Army Japan (USAR-J). As a strategic Signal organization, the 78th SSB does not possess Warfighter Information Network – Tactical (WIN-T) capabilities to include the Command Post Node (CPN) or Joint Network Node (JNN), so it was necessary to provide ESB assets to meet those requirements. However, assuming this mission posed numerous challenges throughout the past two years which the 307th overcame due to the incredible efforts of its

Soldiers.

The first challenge involved the cost incurred when supporting a rotational mission in Japan. Preparing and deploying different Signal teams and equipment every time a unit in Japan requests support is both very expensive and cumbersome as each set of equipment consists of several tactical vehicles and at least one large satellite terminal with a generator set. Executing the movement of these systems along with their required six to 10 Soldier crews across the Pacific multiple times a year creates a hefty bill. On the other hand, not supporting units without organic tactical Signal assets, diminishes the ESB's role as a Signal support



provider

In order to minimize costs of recurring deployments, the ESB determined that "Setting the Theater" with forward deployed teams was the best choice for all parties. Not surprisingly, this solution brought with it a second challenge. How would the ESB provide the necessary logistics to maintain its equipment in another country? Most importantly, who would help to fund an unforecasted deployment? Providing maintenance support in Japan was a significant logistical challenge due to the inability of ESB teams to receive direct ordered parts through the Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-A). The Battalion received all parts in Hawaii and sent them to Japan via USPS or FEDEX. This method incurred incredible shipping costs in excess of over \$10,000 a month and was

unsustainable in the long-term.

The eventual solution involved collaboration between USAR-J, 307th ESB, and 78th SSB leaders to draft and sign a Memorandum of Agreement that relieved the ESB of the cost of maintaining its Soldier presence in Japan by providing all necessary funding to support the ongoing mission. Additionally, this agreement enabled the Battalion to loan its equipment to the 78th SSB through GCSS-A and directly ship all repair parts to Japan from depot. By doing so, the unit saved over \$120,000 in shipping costs and significantly reduced the time required for repairs.

Solving these problems in Japan significantly improved the 307th

FSB's readiness and enabled it to accomplish a very important mission. Through collaboration and partnerships, it established a sustainable method to maintain a forward deployed capability in support of USAR-J and increase its confidence in the tactical Signal teams that support their missions. The ability to overcome these obstacles, set the Theater, and get the message through is why the 307th is known for "Providing the Best!"





1LT (P) Nicholas P. George 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Proficiency with a modern Expeditionary Signal Battalion's (ESB) equipment takes diligent time, planning, training, and maintenance. Even with the abundance of each equipment in an active duty unit like that of the 307th ESB, it can still be difficult to overcome the hurdles that arise with each assemblage. In order to maintain readiness. the Battalion devotes time each week to every system in its formation ensuring maximum combat power in support of Signal support missions throughout the Indo Pacific Theater.

Even on active duty status, an ESB must dedicate significant hours to equipment and training in order to support mission partners. Imagine how complicated it must be for Reserve and

National Guard (COMPO 2 and 3) components. How do they maintain equipment and training readiness of their Signal equipment given one weekend every month? For them, the challenge of maintaining and operating Signal systems is significantly greater despite growing demand for mobilization in support of theater operations. Typical equipment issues that may take hours or days to solve in the 307th ESB may take weeks or months for our component partners. Yet, COMPO 2 and 3 Signal units are a tremendous combat multiplier and essential to the success of the Total Army team.

In an effort to solve the problem of improving their Signal readiness for FY2018, the 307th ESB set an objective to adopt a component Signal organization in Hawaii and support the training and maintenance efforts required to improve that unit. 307th leaders and Soldiers partnered with the 829th Signal Company (US Army Reserve) to support its efforts to increase equipment and training readiness and prepare it for future combined Signal support missions.

Establishing and maintaining a successful partnership was no easy task. With the 829th Soldiers having a limited monthly drill schedule, there would only be a few windows of opportunity to train



Soldiers and maintain equipment which would complicate our ability to rapidly address any major deficits. The Battalion's first action was to relocate all 829th communications assemblages to the ESB motor pool which would enable the 307th to provide routine maintenance checks on 829th equipment when its Soldiers were not on drill duty. After the relocation, the Battalion conducted an initial assessment of what maintenance and training was necessary to make 829th teams and systems fully mission capable. The ESB maintenance team inspected 829th systems, identified all parts requiring replacement, and assisted in conducting Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) and Soldier-level repairs. For training, the ESB invited 829th Soldiers to participate in multiple Signal events to in-



clude communications exercises, validation exercises, and Battalion crew drill competitions. All of these events provided rare opportunities to further train and validate 829th equipment while under the supervision of subject matter experts. These events coupled with a dedicated focus from the ESB enabled the 829th to successfully deploy fully mission capable equipment and Soldiers to Guam for its annual training exercise.

Through its partnership with the 829th, the 307th ESB significantly assisted in improving the readiness of a key Signal partner in the Reserve component. This opportunity laid the foundation for the 307th ESB to continue providing assistance to other component Signal units to include the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment and the 29th IBCT from the Hawaii National Guard. These enduring partnerships not only build a stronger and more cohesive Signal team, but also improves the posture of Army forces serving in the Pacific.



Since Regimental activation, the Signal Regiment has had a program for recognizing people who have made a special contribution or who have distinguished themselves in service to the Distinguished Regiment. Members of the Regiment are prestigious or notable military or civilian persons who are recognized for their accomplishments. They must be current or former members of the Signal Corps Regiment. Nominees may be active, U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard or Signal Regiment Department of the Army civilians (active or retired status).

The designation as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment is largely cer-

emonial and serves to perpetuate the history and traditions of the Regiment, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit. The Honorary Colonel, Honorary Warrant Officer and Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment are distinguished, retired Army Signal Regiment special appointees who simultaneously become Distinguished Members of the Regiment when appointed to their honorary positions. These appointees serve a three-year tour and participate in command and award ceremonies, speaking engagements at dining's-in and other similar functions which help bridge the gap between the past and the present. When their honorary appointment term ends, they remain lifetime Distinguished Members. On June 7, the following 2019 mem-







ber were inducted:

Maj. Michael Donahue served in the Army for 19 years in many positions. Maj Donahue paid the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 16, 2014 and is posthumously recognized as a Distinguished Member of the Signal Regiment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kristine Purnell served the Signal Regiment throughout 33 years of distinguished service, holding positions as the S3 Sergeant Major with the 67th Signal Battalion; Command Sergeant Major of the 69th Signal Battalion; Command Sergeant Major of Area III, Camp Humphreys, Korea; and culminating as the 7th Signal Command (Theater) Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Ronald Pflieger served in every leadership position throughout his 32 years of distinguished service. He held a variety of assignments including division, corps, echelons above corps, NATO, joint service/combined forces, and special operations support in both garrison and deployed environments. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Pflieger continues to serve the Signal Regiment as a civilian contractor at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Gerald Tyce served with distinction during his 32 year career holding ever increasing and demanding leadership assignments. Some of those positions include the G6 Sergeant Major for the 21st Theater Support Command, Command Sergeant Major for the 25th Signal Battalion and 369th Signal Battalion (both forward deployed), and culminating as the Command Sergeant Major of the 5th Signal Command (European Theater).

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Arthur Coley served the United States Army and the Signal Regiment both in and out of the uniform with distinction for over 41 years of combined service. He held several strategic and pivotal leadership positions within the Army prior to his retirement. Following his retirement, he continued to serve the signal regiment in various positions as a civilian.

